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THE NEW AVENGERS®

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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE NEW AVENGERS

The New Avengers and Tony Stark have known there is a shape-shifting alien Skrull infestation on Earth, but they couldn't detect the Skrulls and now can't trust anyone to be who they seem to be. Including themselves.

When a Skrull ship crash-lands in the prehistoric area of Antarctica called the Savage Land, Tony Stark leads his team of Avengers on a chase to stop them...following Luke Cage and the "underground" Avengers, those who did not join Tony's new Initiative.

When both teams of Avengers get there the ship opens, revealing a shocking gathering of Marvel Heroes, icons from a more innocent time. These heroes declare that they have been held captive by the Skrull Empire and have just returned to Earth. But if these are the real heroes, then who are the Avengers that have been living here on Earth?

The standoff between the Avengers of yesterday and today bursts into violence and is only interrupted when Captain America appears from the Skrull ship. But Captain America was recently assassinated...or was he?

The invasion has begun...

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THE SAVAGE LAND.

OH, MAN. OKAY...

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T *WANT* YOU TO BE THE REAL CAPTAIN AMERICA.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DON'T MAKE ME A LITTLE *NERVOUS* LIKE THE REAL CAPTAIN AMERICA.

BUT THE REAL CAPTAIN AMERICA *DIED.*

HE WAS *SHOT.*

ON T.V.

WE *ALL* SAW IT.

HE'S GONE.

SO, YOU, ALTHOUGH YOU'RE TOTALLY ROCKING THE COSTUME... YOU ARE *NOT* HIM.

RRAARRR!

STOP YOUR TALKING, SKRULL. I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY.

I'M NOT HERE TO TALK!

KA-ZAR, KING OF THE SAVAGE LAND. I NEED A WAY BACK TO THE MAINLAND.

I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.

CAPTAIN AMERICA IS *DEAD.*

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

STOP WHERE YOU ARE.

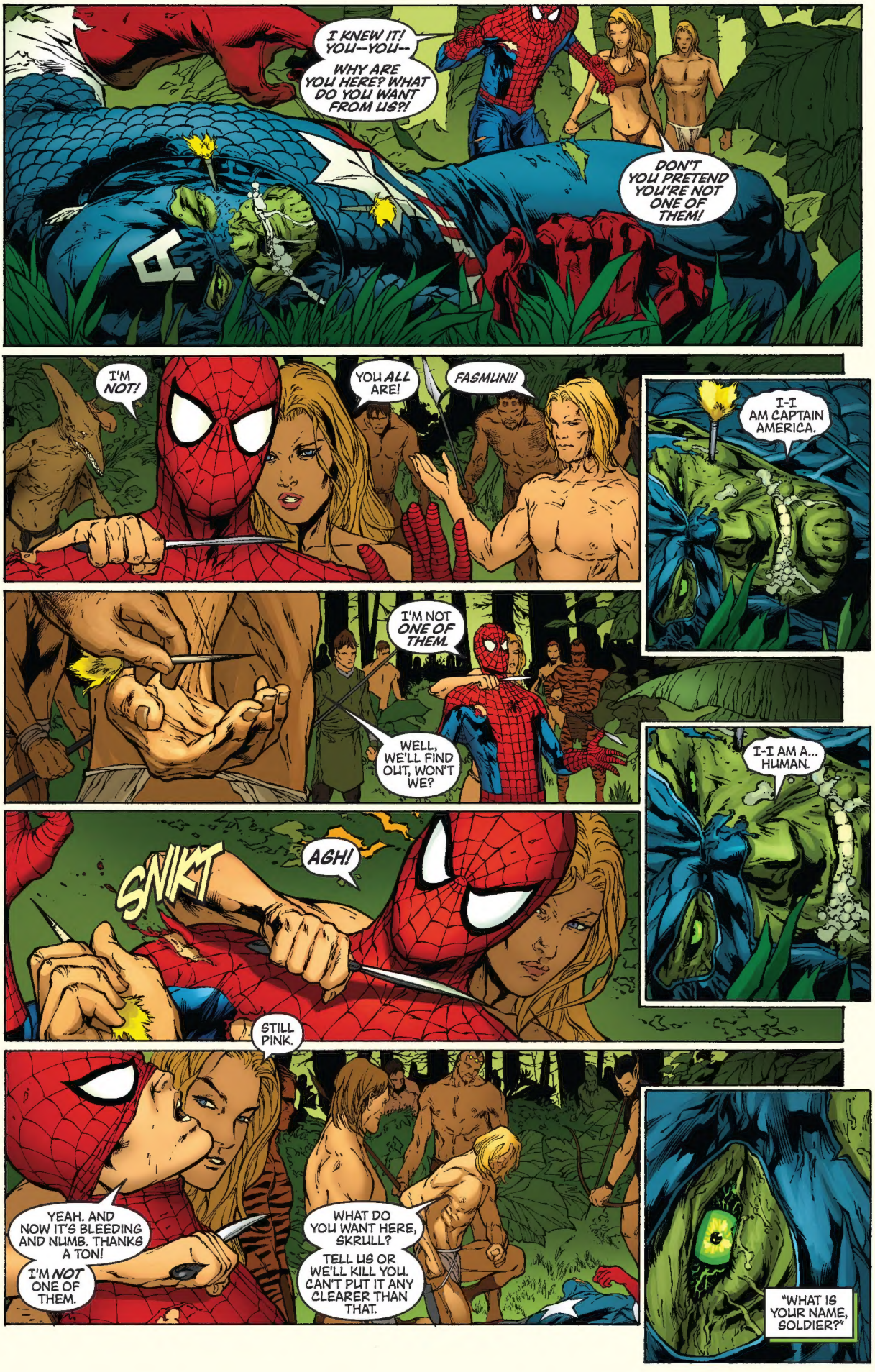
KTANG
AGH!
HEADS UP!
RRARFGH!
WHOA, WHOA AND WHOA...
THWAP
THWAP
A

AGH!
JEEZ!
THWAP
FUMP
CRACK
WELL, YOU FIGHT LIKE CAP.
RRRRR!
CRACK

THIS IS MY HOME! MY HOME! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?! DO YOU?
HOLD HIM STILL!
WHOA, WHOA AND WHOA, I SAID!
NO!
NO ONE IS LISTENING TO ME!
HHUURRGGHH!
RRR!
AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH TO GET BACK TO EARTH, THE HELL IF I'M GOING TO LET THE LIKES OF--
PTUNK

FFIT
THUP
MATUMBA SALANA!
NUH...
A
FUMP

I-I AM CAPTAIN AMERICA.
I AM A HUMAN.
I AM A MALE.
I AM THE SUPER-SOLDIER.
I-I AM AN AVENGER.


I KNEW IT! YOU--YOU--
WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?!
DON'T YOU PRETEND YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM!
I'M NOT!
YOU ALL ARE!
FASMUNI!
I-I AM CAPTAIN AMERICA.
I'M NOT ONE OF THEM.
WELL, WE'LL FIND OUT, WON'T WE?
I-I AM A... HUMAN.
SNIKT
AGH!
STILL PINK.
YEAH. AND NOW IT'S BLEEDING AND NUMB. THANKS A TON!
I'M NOT ONE OF THEM.
WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE, SKRULL?
TELL US OR WE'LL KILL YOU. CAN'T PUT IT ANY CLEARER THAN THAT.
"WHAT IS YOUR NAME, SOLDIER?"

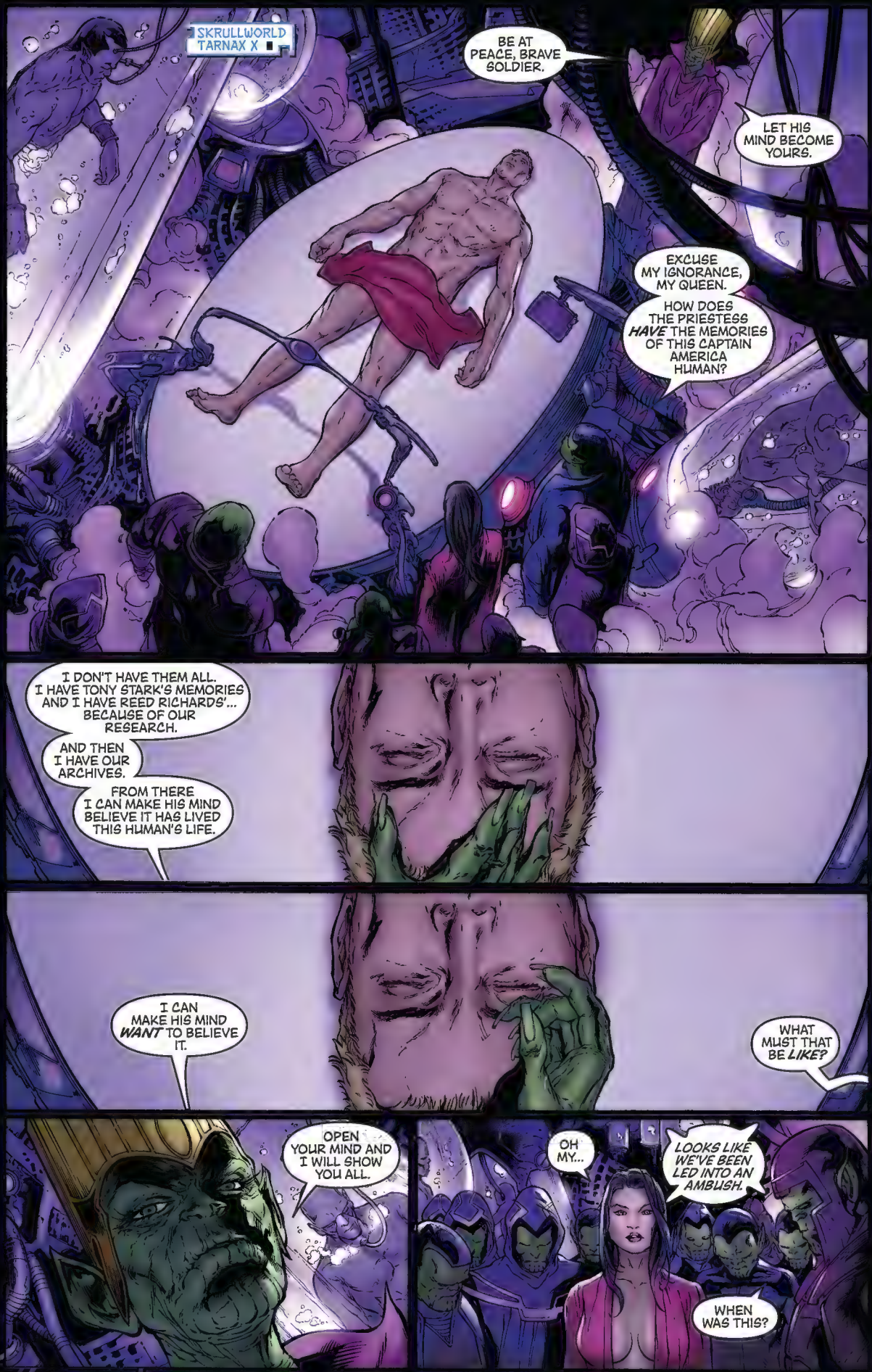
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. SKRULL WORLD SATRIANI
PITT'O NILI, MY QUEEN.
MY FAMILY WAS ON PHALAX SIX. THEY ARE ALL DEAD NOW.
DOES MY HUMAN FORM DISGUST YOU?
YOUR EXCELLENCE?
IT SICKENS ME. AND YOU VOLUNTEER TO TAKE A FORM LIKE THIS? FOR THE REST OF YOUR TIME?
YES, MA'AM.
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS, SOLDIER?
YOU UNDERSTAND... THIS IS A SUICIDE MISSION. YOU WILL NOT COME HOME.
I UNDERSTAND.
YOU WILL NEVER SHIFT BACK TO THIS FORM.
I UNDERSTAND.
YOU WILL NOT REMEMBER YOUR BIRTH NAME.
I UNDERSTAND.
ALL OF YOU, KNOW THIS.

ALL OF YOU HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR BATTLE!
ALL OF YOU HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO SHIFT YOURSELVES IN PURSUIT OF THAT WHICH WE KNOW IS OURS!
AND ALL OF YOU HAVE MY LOVE AND RESPECT!
BUT ONLY A FEW HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING!
PITT'O NILI!
THE ENTIRE EMPIRE WORSHIPS AND ADORES YOU.
AS I DO THEM, MY QUEEN.
PITT'O NILI! LET YOUR NAME BE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF WORLDS.
LET ALL WHO READ IT KNOW THE SIGHT!
LET ALL WHO HEAR IT KNOW THE SOUND OF A HERO'S NAME!

AGTHU
ZΦ ΛZ÷UΛ
AGTHU ZΦ
ЧѧΛѧΦ₁Π₁Ч₁÷₁
AGTHU
ZΦ ΛZ÷UΛ
AGTHU ZΦ
ЧѧΛѧΦ₁Π₁Ч₁÷₁
AGTHU
ZΦ ΛZ÷UΛ
AGTHU ZΦ
ЧѧΛѧΦ₁Π₁Ч₁÷₁
AAGGHH!

The blood of a human.
The blood of a male.
The blood of Steven Rogers.
The blood of Captain America.
The blood of an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.
The blood of a mighty Avenger.

I am now a human.
I am a male.
I am Steven Rogers.
I am Captain America.
Agent of--
NO!
NO, I'M-- I'M HUMAN! I'M PINK!
NNAGGH!
SETTLE.
NOOO!
PRIESTESS OF THE MIND. WE NEED YOUR HELP.
SLEEP.
THE ADJUSTMENT CAN BE JARRING.
HE'LL BE FINE ONCE WE FILL HIS MIND WITH HIS HUMAN IDENTITY.
LET'S HOPE.


SKRULLWORLD
TARNAX X
BE AT PEACE, BRAVE SOLDIER.
LET HIS MIND BECOME YOURS.
EXCUSE MY IGNORANCE, MY QUEEN.
HOW DOES THE PRIESTESS *HAVE* THE MEMORIES OF THIS CAPTAIN AMERICA HUMAN?
I DON'T HAVE THEM ALL. I HAVE TONY STARK'S MEMORIES AND I HAVE REED RICHARDS'... BECAUSE OF OUR RESEARCH.
AND THEN I HAVE OUR ARCHIVES.
FROM THERE I CAN MAKE HIS MIND BELIEVE IT HAS LIVED THIS HUMAN'S LIFE.
I CAN MAKE HIS MIND *WANT* TO BELIEVE IT.
WHAT MUST THAT BE *LIKE?*
OPEN YOUR MIND AND I WILL SHOW YOU ALL.
OH MY...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN LED INTO AN AMBUSH.
WHEN WAS THIS?

THIS IS THE TIME DURING OUR CIVIL WAR...
OKAY, AVENGERS— YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
WHEN THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR WERE CAPTURED BY OUR ARMADA.
SORRY, BOYS, BUT AN AMBUSH THAT'S EXPECTED RARELY WORKS!
WHEN THE SKRULLS ZABYK AND MYRN DETONATED THE GENETIC "HYPERWAVE BOMB".
Y-YOUR SWORD CUT THROUGH MY BLASTER! WHAT SORT OF MAGIC IS THIS?!
HRMPF! THIS BATTLE IS TOO EASILY WON FOR THE SON OF ZEUS!!
PRETTY GOOD MAGIC, I'D SAY!
HEADS UP EVERYBODY! IT'S— --THE SHE-HULK?!
THE AVENGERS?!
THERE.
I BELIEVE THIS IS THE POINT WHERE WE CAN GENERATE THE NEW MEMORIES WE NEED.

IT'S AT THIS POINT THAT THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR COMBINED THEIR STRENGTH AND ESCAPED FROM THE EMPIRE.
BUT OUR CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL REMEMBER IT DIFFERENTLY.
INCOMING!
AAGGH!
OH GOD!
CRACK
DON'T GIVE UP!
KEEP FIGHTING, PEOPLE!
BY THE FIRE OF HADES, I WILL-- AAAGGHH!
THE WASP IS DEAD! CAP, THE WASP IS--

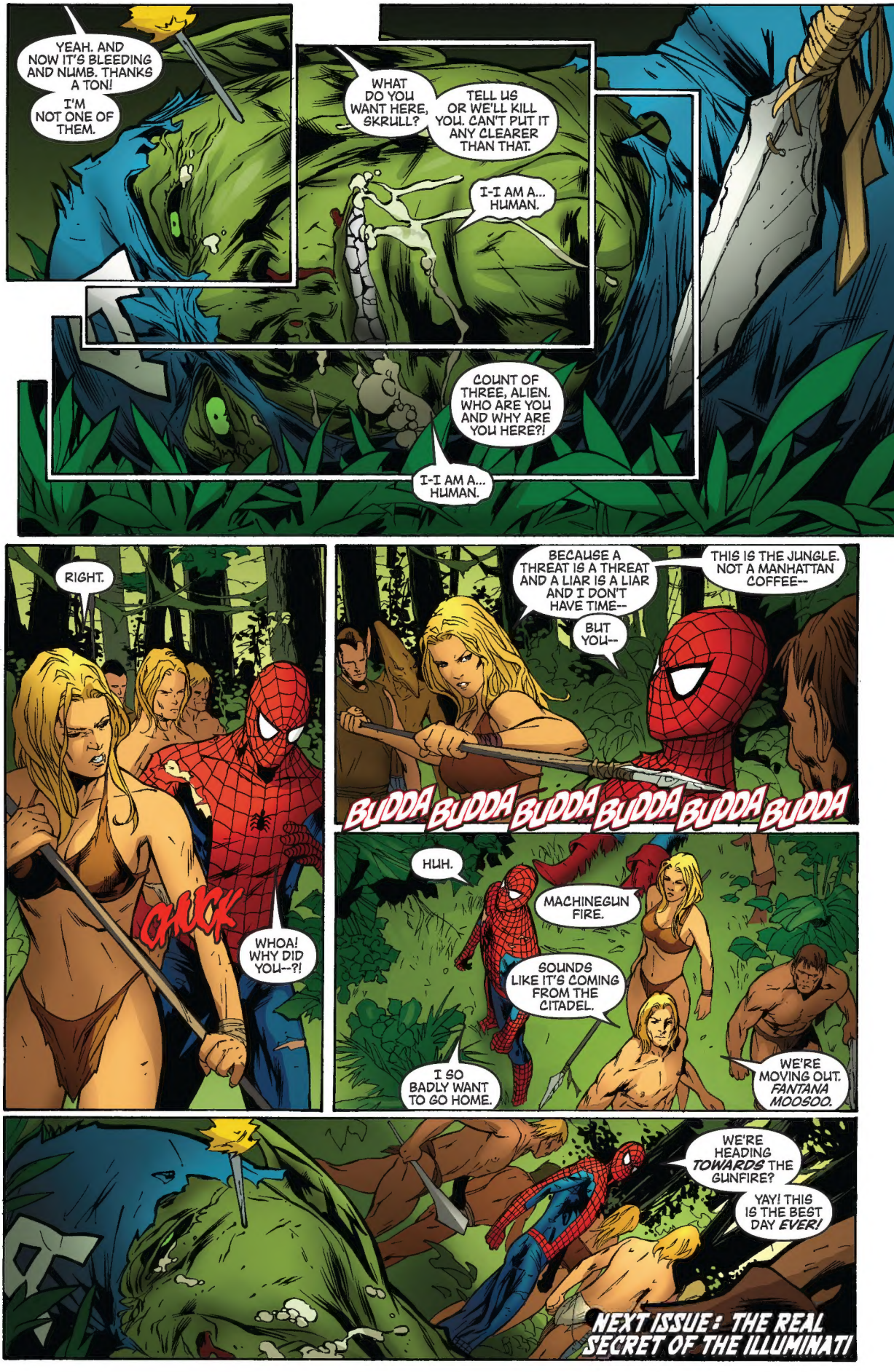
AND THAT'S HOW OUR CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL BELIEVE HE WAS CAPTURED AND HELD BY THE SKRULL EMPIRE.

IF I MAY... WHY GO TO SUCH EFFORT TO STRIKE AT THEM WITH SUCH A WIDE DECEPTION OF--?
WHY?
HOW MANY MORE TIMES DO YOU NEED TO SEE ONE OF THESE STANDING IN THE WAY OF WHAT'S OURS?
YOUR EXCELLENCE, I WAS ONLY ASKING, WHY GO TO SUCH A--
BECAUSE A PHYSICAL DEFEAT MEANS NOTHING TO THEM.
THEY DEFY DEATH. THEY DEFY DEFEAT.
YOU BEAT THEM DOWN, THEY RISE UP. YOU KILL THEM, THEY LIVE ON IN SPIRIT.
SO TO TRULY DEFEAT THEM YOU DESTROY THEM FROM THE INSIDE OUT.
YOU MAKE THEM DOUBT THEMSELVES. THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.
MAKE THEM LOSE SIGHT OF THEMSELVES TO THE POINT THAT THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO STRIKE BACK AT.
THEN... YOU STRIKE.
YOU DAMAGE THEM SO COMPLETELY THAT EVEN IF THE ENTIRE EMPIRE LOST THIS INITIATIVE--
--AND WE WON'T--
--BUT EVEN IF WE DID, THE SHOCKWAVE OF DAMAGE WILL STAY WITH THEM FOREVER.
THAT'S WHY WE GO TO THIS TROUBLE.
THAT'S WHY WE FIGHT WITH EVERY WEAPON WE HAVE.
BECAUSE WE HAVE TO.
I'LL BE LEAVING FOR EARTH WITHIN THE CYCLE.
PUT OUR "CAPTAIN AMERICA" WITH THE REST OF OUR "HEROES."
MY WORD WILL BE GIVEN AND THEN YOU WILL WAKE THEM.

UGH...
CAPTAIN. WAKE UP.
WHERE...?
CAPTAIN AMERICA. CAN YOU HEAR ME? DON'T TALK.
MY NAME IS EMMA FROST. I'M A PSYCHIC MUTANT.
I'M TRYING TO WAKE EVERYBODY UP. LOOK AT ME IF YOU CAN HEAR MY THOUGHTS.
GOOD. THERE'S ONLY FIVE CREW MEMBERS.
ACCORDING TO THEIR THOUGHTS, WE'RE BEING TAKEN TO THE SKRULL ARMADA.
THEY HAVE KIDNAPPED US AND ARE TRANSPORTING US TO A PRISON PLANET OF SOME KIND SO THEY CAN COME BACK TO EARTH AND TRY TO INVADE.
OKAY, HOLD ON, OKAY.
EVERY ONE OF US IS AWAKE.
MY NAME IS JEAN GREY, CAP. I'M AN X-MAN. WE'VE MET A BUNCH OF TIMES.
AT THE COUNT OF THREE. EVERYONE.
I AM GOING TO BREAK THE MECHANISM OF THE MACHINE THAT IS HOLDING US IN STASIS, AND WE MAKE A RUN FOR THE COCKPIT.
OKAY. COUNT OF THREE.
TWO.
ONE.

ANYONE ELSE ALL KINDS OF PISSED OFF?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WE'RE HEADED BACK TO EARTH!
WELL, GOOD. BECAUSE I ACTUALLY DON'T REMEMBER *LEAVING* EARTH--
WE'RE PRISONERS OF WAR.
NOT FOR LONG.
YO, MAN, ANY CHANCE YOU CAN DROP ME OFF IN HARLEM?
I CAN'T--*AAARR!* I CAN'T CONTROL THE SHIP--IT'S LOCKED.
LET ME SEE IF I CAN HELP.
I SHALL EXIT THE CRAFT AND LAND US SAFELY.
PROBLEM IS, THOR, IF YOU OPEN THE DOOR WHEN WE'RE MOVING THIS FAST YOU'LL KILL HALF THE PEOPLE ON BOARD. JUST F.Y.I...
HOLD ONTO YOUR--

IS THAT--?
SAVAGE LAND. YEP.
JEAN, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO?
AND WE'RE COMING IN A TAD RAPIDLY, DON'T YA THINK?
I'M TRYING. IT'S AN AWFULLY BIG--
MRS. RICHARDS, PREPARE A FORCE-FIELD ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE SHIP.
THOR, BRACE THE BACK OF THE SHIP FROM THE INSIDE AND LET'S TRY TO GUIDE IT DOWN GENTLY.
HOLD ON TO SOMETHIN'!
OH, MAN...
NOT THE WAY I WANT TO GO OUT!
REALLY.
WE WILL BE SAFE, YOUNG HERO. OUR POWER IS GREAT.


YEAH. AND NOW IT'S BLEEDING AND NUMB. THANKS A TON!
I'M NOT ONE OF THEM.
WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE, SKRULL?
TELL US OR WE'LL KILL YOU. CAN'T PUT IT ANY CLEARER THAN THAT.
I-I AM A... HUMAN.
COUNT OF THREE, ALIEN. WHO ARE YOU AND WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
I-I AM A... HUMAN.
RIGHT.
CHUCK
WHOA! WHY DID YOU--?!
BECAUSE A THREAT IS A THREAT AND A LIAR IS A LIAR AND I DON'T HAVE TIME--
THIS IS THE JUNGLE. NOT A MANHATTAN COFFEE--
BUT YOU--
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
HUH.
MACHINEGUN FIRE.
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM THE CITADEL.
I SO BADLY WANT TO GO HOME.
WE'RE MOVING OUT. FANTANA MOOSOO.
WE'RE HEADING TOWARDS THE GUNFIRE?
YAY! THIS IS THE BEST DAY EVER!
NEXT ISSUE: THE REAL SECRET OF THE ILLUMINATI